5/015/078

MONTGOMERY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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October 20, 2000

Tony Gallegos
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Dear Mr. Gallegos:

Enclosed please find the report entitled "Cultural Resource Inventory of the Black Knight Mine 320 Acre Parcel, Emery County, Utah". The inventory resulted in the documentation of two isolated finds (IF-A and IF-B). These cultural resources are considered not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on the findings, a determination of "no historic properties affected" is recommended for this project pursuant to Section 106, CFR 800.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Montgomery

Keith R. Montgomery
Principal Investigator

cc: Dan W. Guye, Blackhawk Engineering, Helper, UT
James Dykmann, Compliance Archaeolgist, Utah SHPO
Kenny Wintch, Archaeologist, Trust Lands Administration

-SEE SPIRAL BOUND VOLUME FOR COMPLETE CONTENTS

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE BLACK KNIGHT MINE 320 ACRE PARCEL EMERY COUNTY, UTAH

by

Sharyl Kinnear-Ferris
Jacki A. Montgomery

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and
Jacki A. Montgomery

Prepared For:

State of Utah
School and Institutional
Trust Lands Administration

Prepared Under Contract With:

GoldTerra, Inc
4088 East Airport Road
Price, Utah 84501

Prepared By:

Montgomery Archaeological Consultants
P.O. Box 147
Moab, Utah 84532

MOAC Report No. 00-88

October 20, 2000

United States Department of Interior (FLPMA)
Permit No. 00-UT-60122

State of Utah Antiquities Project (Survey)
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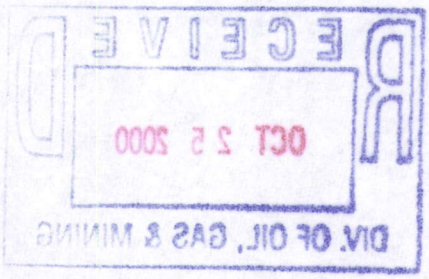
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INTRODUCTION

A cultural resource inventory was conducted by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants (MOAC) in October, 2000 for GoldTerra's Black Knight Mine 320 acre parcel in Emery County, Utah. The archaeological survey was implemented at the request of Dan W. Guy, President of Blackhawk Engineering, Inc., Helper, Utah. The inventory area occurs on State of Utah, School and Institutional, Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) property.

The objective of the inventory was to locate, document, and evaluate any cultural resources within the project area. Also, the inventory was implemented to attain compliance with a number of federal and state mandates, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Archaeological and Historic Conservation Act of 1972, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, and the Utah State Antiquities Act of 1973 (amended 1990).

The fieldwork was directed by Sharyl Kinnear-Ferris assisted by several archaeological technicians on October 17, 18 and 19, 2000. The survey was conducted under the auspices of U.S.D.I. (FLPMA) Permit No. 00-UT-60122 and State of Utah Antiquities Permit (Survey) No. U-00-MQ-0621s issued to Montgomery Archaeological Consultant, Moab, Utah. Prior to the inventory a file search for previous surveys and documented archaeological sites was performed by Keith R. Montgomery at the BLM Price River Field Office. This consultation indicated that north of the current project area an inventory was completed by the University of Utah Archaeological Center for the Kaiser Steel South Lease Mine property (Rauch 1981). A number of prehistoric and historic sites were documented along with a test excavation at a rockshelter with Fremont and Numic components (42Em1343). In 1999, a 7.3 acre parcel for the Black Knight mine site was surveyed by MOAC in T 17S, R 14E, Sec. 16, resulting in no cultural resources (Montgomery 1999).

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The Black Knight Mine survey area is located about 5 miles northeast of Woodside, Emery County, Utah. The legal description is Township 17 South, Range 14 East, Section 16 (Figure 1). The parcel is accessed by a bladed road which begins at U.S. 191. This road was inventoried by MOAC in 1999 (Montgomery 1999).

Environment

The inventory area is situated near the base of the Book Cliffs just south of Marsh Flat Wash. The terrain is dissected by intermittent drainages and steep-sided narrow ridges. In general, the project area lies within the Book Cliffs-Roan Plateau Physiographic Subdivision of the Colorado Plateau (Stokes 1986) characterized by massive sandstone strata of the Mesa Verde group. The Book Cliffs form an almost continuous cliff face along the Tavaputs Plateau and drained by tributaries of Colorado River. This uplift reaches a height of 10,000 feet, whereupon it is abruptly terminated in linear systems of erosional cliffs that step down to valleys on the west and south sides. The Beckwith Plateau dominates the southern portion of the study area with several prominent canyons which descend from the plateau uplands to join the Green River in Gray Canyon. The geology of the project area is composed of Cretaceous period deposits which date from 144 to an estimated 78 million years ago (Stokes 1986:131). The lowlands west of the Book

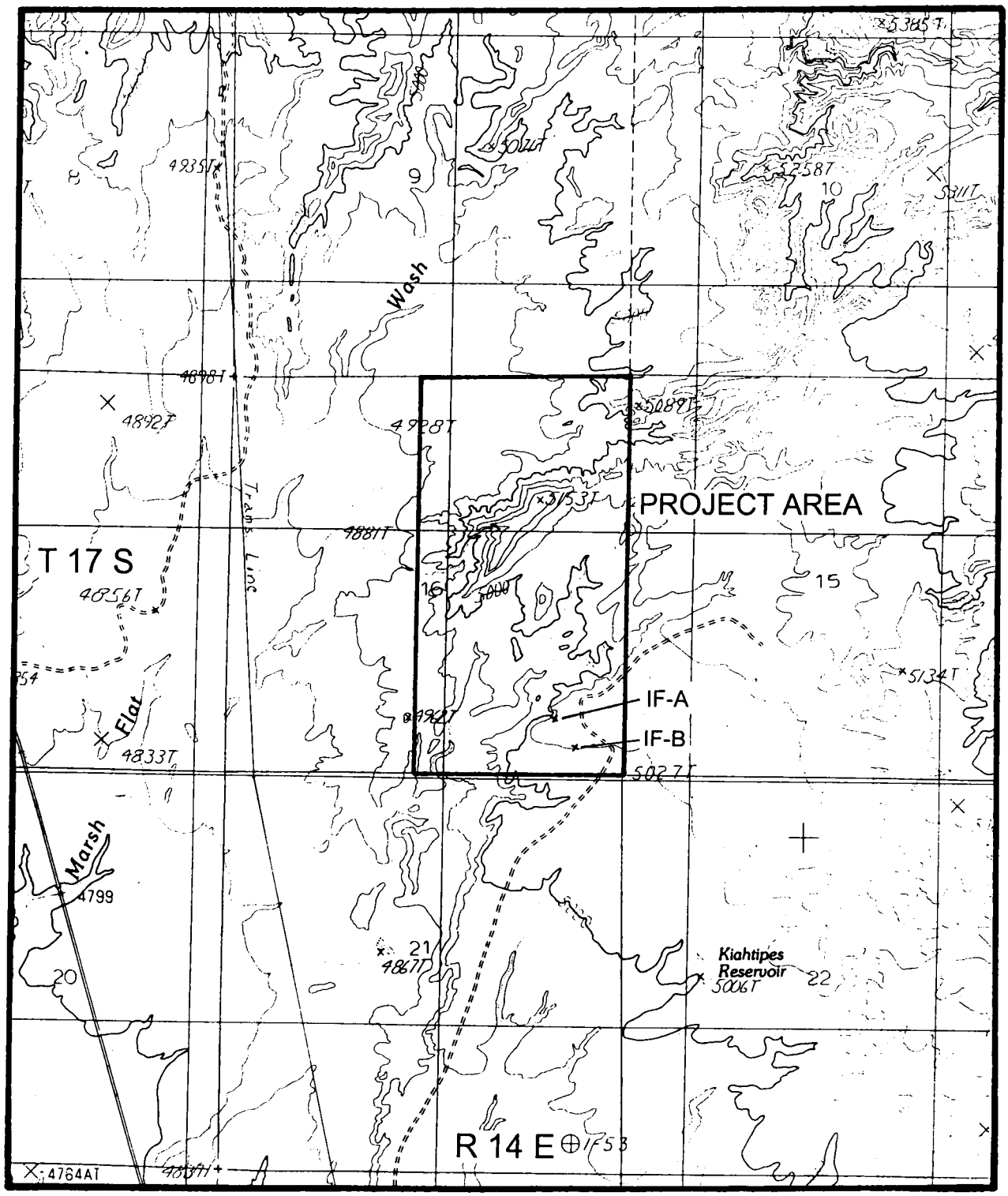

Figure 1. Inventory Area of the Black Knight Mine 320 Acre Parcel with Cultural Resources, Emery County, UT. USGS 7.5' Woodside, UT 1985. Scale 1:24000.

Cliffs consists of the Blue Gate shale member of the Mancos Shale group which are mainly marine sediments. The Cretaceous age rocks yield a notable record of both continental and marine vertebrates with fish remains represented chiefly by scales and teeth. Soils throughout the Mancos Shale Lowlands are referred to as loamy or clayey, dominantly deep soils without distinct horizons.

The climate of the study area is arid to semiarid. The average annual precipitation ranges from eight inches although at higher elevations in the Book Cliffs, annual averages range from 20 inches (Reed and Nickens 1980). The elevation in the inventory ranges from 4960 to 5150 feet. The nearest permanent water source is the Price River which occurs on the south side of Woodside. The area supports a Desert Shrub Association consisting of shadscale, mat saltbrush, greasewood, and grasses. Modern impacts to the landscape include livestock grazing, roads, and mining development.

Cultural-Historical Background

The study area has been occupied by prehistoric groups since about 10,000 B.C. as evidenced by projectile points diagnostic of the Paleoindian stage. The Paleoindian stage is divided into the Clovis, Folsom, and Plano traditions. Whereas the Clovis and Folsom tradition peoples primarily inhabited the lower valleys of the northern Colorado Plateau, perhaps making occasional forays into the higher elevations, Plano tradition peoples evidently made more extensive use of the higher elevations. The only well-documented site in the area dating to this stage is the Montgomery Folsom site (42Gr1956), situated along a terrace of the Green River (Horn et al. 1994:101). The artifact assemblage of this surface occupation included several Folsom fluted points, an array of spurred end scrapers, borers/gravers, and bifacially retouched flakes with heavily ground platforms (Davis 1985).

The Archaic stage dates from approximately 7800 B.C. to the time when domestication of corn appears. Characteristics of this cultural stage include a reliance on smaller fauna and increased reliance on plant species as well as finds of medium and large corner-notched and side-notched projectile points and an increase in frequency of milling stones (Horn et al. 1994). Several cultural sequences for the Archaic stage in the region have been proposed (Wormington and Lister 1956; Buckles 1971; and Schroedl 1976). Matson (1991) synthesizes data from the Western United States and presents a four-period Archaic sequence: Early (7800 to 4000 B.C.), Middle (4000 to 2000 B.C.), Late (2000 to 1000 B.C.), and Terminal (1000 B.C. to 300 B.C.). The material culture consists of lithic debitage and tools, ground stone implements, perishables (baskets, sandals, split-twig figurines), hearths, and pitstructure architecture (Horn et al. 1994). Investigations at Cedar Siding Shelter, situated west of the project area, recovered the remains of slab-line processing and storage cists along with remnants of a masonry wall and organic mats (Martin et al. 1983). Radiocarbon dates and projectile points from this rockshelter indicated a series of occupations ranging from the Middle Archaic through Fremont.

The Formative stage is marked by reliance on domesticated plants, most notably corn; settlement in sedentary or semi-sedentary hamlets near areas optimum for horticulture; and the introduction of pottery. The study area is within the cultural area of the Fremont and the Ancestral Puebloan cultural traditions. The Fremont stage is divided by Marwitt (1970) into five regional variants. Those variants associated with the study area are the Uinta Basin and San Rafael. Diagnostic artifacts associated with the Fremont include one-rod-and-bundle baskets, moccasins incorporating the dewclaw of a deer or mountain sheep, clay figurines (trapezoidal-shaped anthropomorphs), and gray coiled pottery with a distinguishable temper and decoration (Madsen

1989). Distinctive traits of the San Rafael variant are wet and dry laid masonry structures, slab-lined pit houses, stone slab paved firepits, and Emery Gray pottery with surface modeling (Jennings 1978). The Uinta variant is characterized by shallow, saucer-shaped pithouses; surface masonry structures; a mixed horticulture, hunting, and gathering subsistence strategy; gilsonite-covered baskets; and Uinta Gray ceramics (Spangler 1995). The nearest Fremont village excavated in the study area is the Turner-Look site located along the southern edge of the Book Cliffs (Wormington 1955). This village contained both oval and round noncontiguous rooms, most interpreted as habitations. Walls were constructed from coursed masonry with some use of adobe bricks. The ceramic assemblage consisted of both Fremont (Emery Gray and Uinta Grray) and Puelbo II (Mancos Black-on-white, Tusayan Black-on-red, Middleton Black-on-red, and corrugated ware), the later types indicative of an exchange network with the southern Anasazi groups.

The Protohistoric Stage is represented in the study area by Numic-speaking people (Ute) who are thought to have migrated onto the northern Colorado Plateau by A.D. 1200. The Numic material culture consists of Desert Side-Notched projectile points, lithic scatters, low density ceramic scatters of brownware pottery with a coarse temper and often finger indentations, and wickiup structures. The Ute appear to have been hunters and gatherers, exploiting such fauna as deer, elk, pronghorn, bison, a small game. Common plant species procured by these peoples include pinyon nuts, goosefoot, juniper berries, squawbush berries, and hackberry seeds (Reed 1994:191). Most of the sites documented in the study area consist of artifact scatters in open settings, although a small number are in rockshelters. Along the Book Cliffs, Numic presence is known by several lithic scatters, and the Patterson Bundle which contained a variety of artifacts such as moccasins, leather items, ocher, a horn spoon, a dried trout, two stone knife fragments, and a reworked Desert Side-notched point (Louthan 1990).

Initial Euroamerican settlement in the area commenced around 1854 when Brigham Young sent William D. Huntington and Jackson Stewart to find a suitable location for a Mormon colony in southeastern Utah. Soon thereafter, the Elk Mountain Mission colony was established at present-day Moab in 1855 (Firmage 1996). The missionaries constructed a fort of adobe and stone and began to plant crops, but were soon deterred by conflicts with the Utes, and departed the valley in haste. The town of Green River was originally known as Blake. It began as a mail station along the Salina-Ouray route (est. 1878), operated by H. Elwyn Blake, Sr., established on the west side of the Green River near the historic crossing point of the Old Spanish Trail (Firmage 1996:138). In 1880 LDS apostle, Francis M. Lyman, visited the Green River settlement reporting the existence of a post office, store, ferry, and three families (Geary 1996:73). The Denver & Rio Grande Western (D&RGW) Railroad was organized in July 1881 to extend the narrow gauge line from Colorado to Utah. The railroad was built in both directions at once, from Colorado and from Salt Lake City, and was joined west of Green River in April 1883 (Horn et al.1994:164). Almost overnight, towns and railroad stations were built in the area. The small engines used on the narrow gauge Rio Grande Western required frequent stops for water. Stations for this purpose were established at Desert Siding, northwest of Green River, at Lower Crossing (Woodside). The first settler of Woodside was reportedly Henry H. Hutchinson, who made it a base for his prospecting around Cedar Mountains in 1881 (Geary 1996:110). With the establishment of Desert Siding other settlers began cultivating the Price River bottoms, residing in dirt-roofed log cabins. By 1900 the community boosted a hotel, frame schoolhouse, a store, and stockyards. Woodside supported a population of 114, including among its adult males, 23 railroad workers, 13 farmers, four stock raisers, a cattle dealer, and a miner (Ibid 111).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Black Knight Mine inventory area was designated by Blackhawk Engineering whom staked the boundaries of the 320 acre parcel. An intensive or 100% survey coverage was conducted by the archaeologist. MOAC archaeologists walked a series of parallel transects spaced no more than 10 meters (30 feet apart). A total of 320 acres was inspected on State of Utah Trust Lands Administration property. Ground visibility was considered excellent to good.

INVENTORY RESULTS

The inventory of the Black Knight Mine parcel resulted in the documentation of two isolated finds of artifacts (IF-A and IF-B), Figure 1.

Isolated Find A (IF-A) is situated in the NW/SE/SE of S. 16, T 17S, R 14E (UTM 556450E-4354250N). The artifact is a grayish-brown opaque chert unprepared core with 3 flakes removed from wide margins.

Isolated Find B (IF-B) is situated in the SW/SE/SE of S. 16, T 17S, R 14E (UTM 556500E-4354140N). It consists of a light scatter of tins cans including: three crushed hole-in-cap commodity cut-around opening cans (1 3/4" cap), one which is stamped with "EXTRA COATED TIN" (ca. 1885-1903); a hole-in-cap smashed can with a 2 3/8" cap; and a "Sanitary" embossed can measuring 4 5/8 by 3 inches (1904-1908). This can scatter is most likely related to the early 20th-century livestock industry in the area.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The inventory of the Black Knight Mine 320 acre parcel resulted in the documentation of a non-diagnostic prehistoric artifact (IF-A) and a light historic trash scatter (IF-B). These cultural resources represent ephemeral use of the area and are considered not eligible to the NRHP due to their lack of additional research potential beyond the artifact descriptions in this report. Based on the findings, a determination of "no historic properties affected" pursuant to Section 106, CFR 800 is recommended for these project areas.

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